

THE **VVFC NEWS ALERT**
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DEC 2005/JAN 2006



ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS

We are changing the doses administered and inventory deadlines and requirements for **PRIVATE** practices in 2006. Please refer to the insert for facility specific details.

INFLUENZA VACCINE

VVFC has shipped all Influenza vaccine orders in full. Orders were limited based on patient enrollment and vaccine availability; providers may not have received the entire amount requested. We have received some additional requests since our last shipment and we are working on coordinating some vaccine transfers between those in need and those who have more than they need. If you have a need or you have too much, please contact the VVFC Office immediately.



If your facility's stock of preservative-free (PF) Influenza vaccine has been exhausted, you may now administer preservative-containing (PC) Influenza vaccine to eligible children 6 months to 35 months of age. Providers may also "give two separate injections of the PF Influenza vaccine to protect the high-risk individual" who needs a 0.5mL dose. Providers can only charge one administration fee when giving two 0.25mL doses at the same visit to a patient who is 36 months-18 years and high-risk. www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/vaxadmin.htm

VARICELLA SHIPMENTS

Varicella shipments have been taking up to a week to be processed and shipped by the manufacturer, Merck. Please remember when you place your order, this vaccine is shipped separately and takes longer for delivery.



VVFC AWARDS

Outstanding VVFC Compliance

*Children's Clinic, LTD, Newport News
Practice of Dr. Doron, Suffolk
Practice of Dr. Gupta, Suffolk*

Exceptional Immunization Rates

*Richeson Drive Pediatrics, Inc., Lynchburg
Southside Pediatrics, P.C., Farmville
Watson Salisbury Pediatrics, Herndon*
(Immunization rates exceed 90% using CASA software)

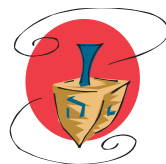


WINTER HOLIDAY SHIPPING

Because of the Christmas holiday, we **did not ship vaccine on December 19th.** For the New Year's holiday, we will not be shipping the week of December 26th. *Orders received between 4 PM December 8th and 4 PM December 29th will be shipped January 3rd.* (Submit your email address to our office for future alerts such as these!)

MMRV UPDATE

As of 12/12/2005, the new MMRV vaccine, ProQuad, manufactured by Merck, was approved by the FDA and recommendations were made by ACIP/CDC (Oct. 2005). However, these recommendations have not been posted yet. A VFC purchasing contract has not been finalized with Merck either. With posted recommendations and a contract, VVFC will offer this direct ship vaccine just like Varicella vaccine. MMRV must be stored at -15° Celsius or below (5°F or below). Order forms will be updated on our web site (below) once it becomes available. We will also mail order forms with the next Backpage.



VVFC TIPS & TIDBITS

- VVFC will adopt the new Tdap and Hep A recommendations from the ACIP once they are published in a MMWR article.
- Please set your fax machines to receive a confirmation notice automatically. This will confirm that we have received your fax. Due to the high volume of faxes we receive, we are unable to send back confirmation notices.
- Thermometers need to be in the center of your storage unit and in the same area of the unit where the vaccines are stored.
- Final versions of the Influenza VIS have been published and are required to be distributed by law.
- Be proactive! When a winter storm is forecast, move your vaccines to a facility with a backup generator prior to the onset of the storm.
- Don't forget to order 3 months of vaccine at a time. If you run out of a particular vaccine, stock up on other vaccines at the same time.

